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COVER MESSAGE:

Examiner Schrader

Here is our proposed agenda for our 10:00am interview tomorrow regarding application number 09/717,680:

1. Discuss attached argument that the Chainini reference teaches away from the combination with Banning, and that the combination would be inoperable.
2. Discuss possible allowable subject matter.

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The present invention as recited in claim 1 is directed to a system that comprises a source code editor that can edit a source code module, and a graphical design surface that can display a graphical object representing code of the source code module. The graphical design surface displays a database object, including a database column. The graphical design surface can bind the database column to a variable of the source code module.

Chainini is directed to a graphical programming application that is intended to be run under a graphic user interface operating system. The application is directed to teaching children how to program through interaction with simplistic graphical objects, such as monkeys and bananas, that represent programming objects. As acknowledged by the Office Action, Chainini fails to disclose or suggest a graphical object representing a database object, including a database column.

The Office Action states that Banning discloses a graphical object representing a column of a database. However, even if Banning taught such a feature, Chainini clearly teaches against combining its teachings with those of Banning. Furthermore, such a combination would be inoperable.

Chainini teaches away from combining the references because the addition of a database object would complicate and defeat Chainini's goals of simplicity and appeal to children. The invention as described in Chainini is directed towards teaching children to program through graphical objects. The specification states "it is contemplated that the present invention will be sold as an application program specifically intended to entertain and to educate children in the ages of eight to twelve (Chainini, col. 6, ll. 61-65).

Chainini criticizes prior art graphical programming system because they use "predefined tools and control actions that are intended for adults, i.e. for use in business or in connection with adult hobbies and interests that are typically boring to young children" (Id., col. 2, ll. 13-17). In addition, Chainini states that "[e]ven if adults or children use such program development applications, they typically do not progress in their programming skills" (Id., col. 2, ll. 17-19). Thus, Chainini teaches away from combining the graphical database objects allegedly taught by Banning with the computer programming learning tool taught by Chainini, because adding such a feature would necessarily complicate the learning tool and thwart its goal of teaching children to

program by adding "control actions" that are "intended for adults" and would be "boring to young children."

In addition, the proposed combinations of Banning with Chainini would be inoperable. An exemplary screen shot of the programming teaching application taught by Chainini is illustrated in Figure 11. Users are able to program the actions of The Kongo King by selecting such actions as "Burp" and "Dance". It is respectfully submitted that it is inconceivable how a complex data structure such as a database object could be incorporated into the simplistic cartoon style teaching application as shown Chainini. Would the programming student have The Kongo King burp at, or dance with, a selected database? Would the database object icon appear next to the banana icon or the barrel icon? Such scenarios are clearly ridiculous and meant to emphasize how the combination of Banning with Chainini would be so useless as to be completely inoperable together.